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THE SEA STEAMER.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

See how the gales herald break,
The rising and falling waves,
At cracking o'er their crested heads,
With foam before and fire behind,
With tempests down the deep,
The living spray of ocean sweep
Along her flashing zone.

With crashing wheel and lifting keel,
And crackling iron on high,
The thunder, flaming at her roars,
When seas are silent and serene,
The sunbeams glimmering through the green
That skirts her gleaming shore.

Now like a wild nymph, for sport
She plays in the form,
The beauty of her reverie cast,
Still sounding through the storm!
The redeling surge o'er,
With flying spray of spangled flame,

Her heart! I hear you whistling shrill,
I see you dashing to the deep:
The black throat of the hunted cloud
An hour, and with a swooping chaff,
The giant surge shall ring.
Hush! at the one bird's wing!

Yet not so wondrous of the deep:
Nor will our wave shall tire
These bosphorus arms, whose pulses leap
With floods of living fire.

Thackeray's Georges.—The Times of the First of the Four Kings.

The last *Cornhill Magazine* has the first of Thackeray's excellent lectures on "The Four Kings of England." The following extract therefrom relates to the life and times of George I:

Delightful as London city was, King George I liked to be out of it as much as ever he could; and when there, passed all of his time with his Germans. It was with them as with Blucher, 100 years afterward, when the bold old reiter looked down from St. Paul's and sighed out, "What for plunders!" The German women plundered; the German cooks and intendants plumped; even Munchausen and Mahomet, the German negroes, had a share of the booty. Take what you can get, was the old Monarch's maxim. He was not a lofty Monarch, certainly; he was not a patron of the fine arts; but he was not a hypocrite, he was not revengeful, he was not avaricious. Though a despot in Hanover, he was a monarch in England. His aim was to have it to itself as much as possible, and to live out of it as much as he could. His heart was in Hanover. When taken ill on his last journey, as he was passing through Holland he threw his livid head out of the coach window and gasped out, "Osnaburg! Osnaburg!"

"Years more than fifty years ago, when he came to England, we took him because we wanted him because he served our turn; we laughed at his uncouth German way, and sneered at him. He took our loyalty for what it was worth; laid hands on what money he could; kept us assuredly from Popery and wooden shoes. I, for one, would have given him his side in those days. Cynical and selfish as he was, he was better than a king out of St. Germains, with the French king's orders in his pocket, and a French Jemmis in his train."

The fates are supposed to interest themselves about royal personages; and so this one had omens and prophecies specially regarding him. He was said to be much diseased, though he was not; he died suddenly, soon after his wife, and amid much pain and death, having seized with the breaking disease in his castle of Ahdien, presented upon H. M. King George I in his traveling chariot, on the Hanover Road! What position can outride that pale horseman? It is said George promised one of his left-handed widows to come to her after death if leave were granted to him to revisit the land of his birth; and after his death a green vine actually sprang or hopping in at the Duchess of Kerdar's window, at Twickenham, she chose to imagine the King's spirit inhabited these plumes and took special care of her noble visitor. Affecting metempsychosis—funereal royal bird! How pathetic is the idea of the Dutchess of Kerdar! This is the chaotic addition to our English aristocracy, die all her jewels, her plate, her plunder, write greater her relations in Hanover. I wonder whether her heirs took the bird, and whether it is still flapping its wings over Herrenhausen?

The days are over in England of that strange religion of king-worship, when people used to go to the Temple of God; when nobility was held to be trembling duty, when beauty and youth were born to be royal favor, and woman's shame was held to be no dishonor. Mended morals and mended manners in courts and people, are among the priceless consequences of the freedom which George I came to rescue and secure. He kept his compact with his English subjects, and it is well to note that other men and monarchs from the vicars of his age, at least we may thank him for preserving and transmitting the liberties of ours. In our fair, royal and humble homes have alike been purified; and truth, the birthright of high and low among us, which quite fearlessly judges our greatest personages, can only speak of them now in words of admiration.

There are stains in the portrait of the first George, but in it which none of us had notice but among the nobler features are justice, courage, moderation—and these we may recognize ere we burn the picture on the wall.

Interesting Revolutionary Reminiscences.

A paragraph appeared a few days since, in the *Albany Evening Journal*, stating that their ladies and gentlemen, the only survivors of that interesting company of young girls who sustained the elegancies of the historical regent exhibited at Trenton, in honor of General Washington's arrival, at that city in 1789. The young girls dressed in white and crowned with garlands, strewing the path of the hero with flowers, singeing and expressive of their love and gratitude. The newspaper notices, likewise furnish the names and addresses of the three surviving ladies. Mrs. Catherine Fryer, widow of the late William Fryer, merchant of this city, was a witness to that grand spectacle. This estimable lady died on the 4th of this present month, at an advanced age. She was a widow, and her children, having then herself a child, her father, Dr. George Anderson, a captain in the old continental army, then residing in Trenton, on that memorable occasion, held her up, overpeering the crowd, telling her to look on General Washington and listen to the song of the young girls strewing flowers, for you will remember, the day never to tell, and talk of it when you are old. As she was gradually passing away, all the contemporaries of Washington, the traditions of the aged, however unimportant, referring to him and to his times, receive additional value.

SCARCITY OF DELAWARE PEACHES.—It is stated that not more than a third of the usual quantity will be taken this season to the market from Delaware, but prices will rule high, so that the profit of the grower and the quality of the fruit will not be diminished in the same ratio. A gentleman in New Castle County, where peach crop of 20,000 bushels last year, told him the horticultural society of \$10,000 an acre will probably tax aside a sum sufficient to meet the present value, with a yield of 30,000 bushels.

A SLICE-STOCK Hand.—A man made his appearance at the Health Office, in St. Louis, on Saturday, and exhibited a hand which it appears was rendered useless by an attack of rheumatism, and remained so for a period of four months. The member of Congress, who was present, examined it closely, and directed directly to the cause mentioned, which observes the man appears to have fully recovered.

A Kinetics of Novel Construction.

A machine of novel construction, and which the inventor calls "kinetic," has been devised for the purpose of simulating the kinematic effects of the three hypotheses which have been advanced to account for the inhabitants of the earth never having seen more than one-half of the surface of the moon, the same hemisphere of our satellite being always presented toward the earth. For this purpose a central gear, whose teeth are divided in diameter, is fixed on a brass stem, supported by a brass pedestal. At the bottom of the stem is a fixed wheel of fifty-eight teeth, and between that and the pedestal a T shaped brass arm is centered, having at one end a receptacle for a mariner's compass. The other extremity of the arm is grooved to receive four arbor, with each a wheel of twenty-eight teeth, like the fixed wheel first mentioned, into which one of them is made to gear.

Another wheel in the middle of the cross part of the T gear into the second, and a fourth at the extremity into the third, while the fifth occupies a position at the opposite end of the cross groove, but does not gear with the other wheels. All these wheels have a total number of teeth. To the third, both ends of which are arbor in the same direction, driving a wheel which is in a contrary direction, by which the fourth wheel is driven in the same direction as that of the revolving arm—all with the same angular velocity; while the fifth wheel, not being in gear with the others, revolves with the arm, without any additional rotation on its own arbor or axis. A colored spot upon each of the ivory moons tends to render their relative motions more perceptible and distinct.

GRAND CANAL PROJECT IN EUROPE.—T wo to be United.—In the *Independence Herald* of 26th July, it is stated, in a telegram from Paris, that the project of uniting the Grand Canal, that is to say, the project of making a new canal which will unite the North Sea and the Baltic, traversing the Isthmus of Holstein. This canal will do away with the necessity of doubling the Cape of Jutland, the perilous passage of the Cattegat. An American solicits authority to execute the work, which will cost an enormous sum of money. They say that the project of the Cabot Canal, which favors this enterprise, notwithstanding the opposition of certain interests that are managed by it. An agent went from this country three years ago, with the sanction of the Government, in order to push this work along, by securing the co-operation of the nations immediately interested.

He has not succeeded, but he has met with only partial success, which he attributes to be accounted for by the recent wars and disorders on the continent. It is probable that they have absorbed all attention, to the exclusion of every thing else. The United States is deeply interested in this ship canal, for by shortening the distance and dangers of the voyage, it would afford an opportunity to compete for the vast commerce of Sweden, Norway, which is now mostly carried on in British bottoms.

The distance between Kiel and Gluckstadt is only fifty miles, and the distance by the route from the United States to St. Petersburg is about 1,000 miles less by the present dangerous vessels of trade. The sound of the Isthmus of Skagerrak, Cattegat and the Sound of the Islands of the North Sea, proposed to make the canal 130 feet wide at the top water-mark, 110 feet at the bottom and twenty feet deep. The estimate cost is \$60,000,000.

THE GREAT TRIP OF THE STEAMER POWELL.—A gentleman who accompanied the *Powhattan* on her trip, just concluded, writes from Philadelphia as follows:

Since our departure from Norfolk, we have been at sea 313 days in the whole. From Norfolk to Hong Kong, in China, the distance run was 16,367 miles, and the same twenty-five days and four hours. From Hong Kong to Suez, 1,200 miles, and from Suez to Liverpool, 3,000 miles, making a total of about 57,278 miles we have run, and 313 days at sea.

We have been in the Indian Ocean, the Horn to St. Catharine's occupied seventeen days and sixteen hours, and is said to be the quicksteat upon record. In accomplishing this amount of locomotion, the engine has made above 4,000,000 of revolutions. It is now of record that the ship has never stopped for want of fuel, and that the cost of repairing the machinery, and that of the cost of repairing the hull, either by a homeward bound or otherwise, has been defrayed in part on account of her machinery, with a single exception. During the cruise, the *Powhattan* has shown her colors in twenty-five different ports, a large part of which have been visited repeatedly.

A LAWYER COMMITS SUICIDE BY DRINKING COLOGNE.—A lawyer by the name of Chapman committed suicide at White Sulphur (Va.) Springs, February 13, and expecting to reach Philadelphia to-morrow, we shall have learned and salved, since leaving Kanawha 22,000 miles in 100 days, making a total of about 57,278 miles we have run, and 313 days at sea.

He was a resident of Orange County, Va., and was a lawyer of respectable ability.

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